

## **ABSTRACT**

A surgical stapler is disclosed including a first body portion supporting an anvil plate defining a fastener forming surface, and a second body portion releasably mating with the first body portion. A disposable loading unit is removably supported in the second body portion and 5 includes a cartridge defining a plurality of slots, a plurality of surgical fasteners disposed in the slots, a plurality of ejectors positioned adjacent the surgical fasteners, and a wedged actuator for sequentially interacting with the ejectors. An elongated actuation member is mounted for longitudinal movement within the second body portion and is releasably engageable with the wedged actuator. A locking mechanism having a locking member and a biasing member is 10 included in the second body portion.